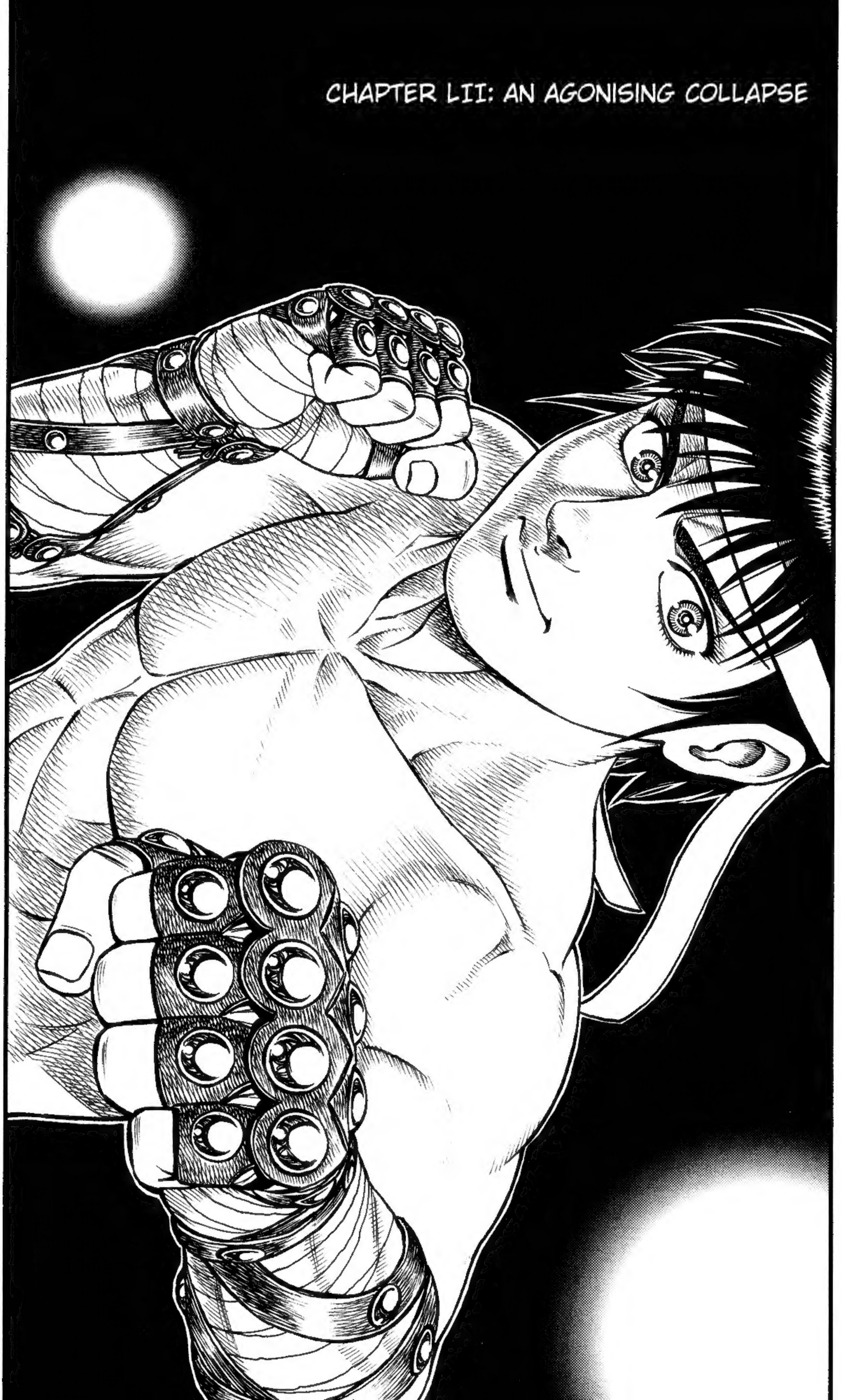
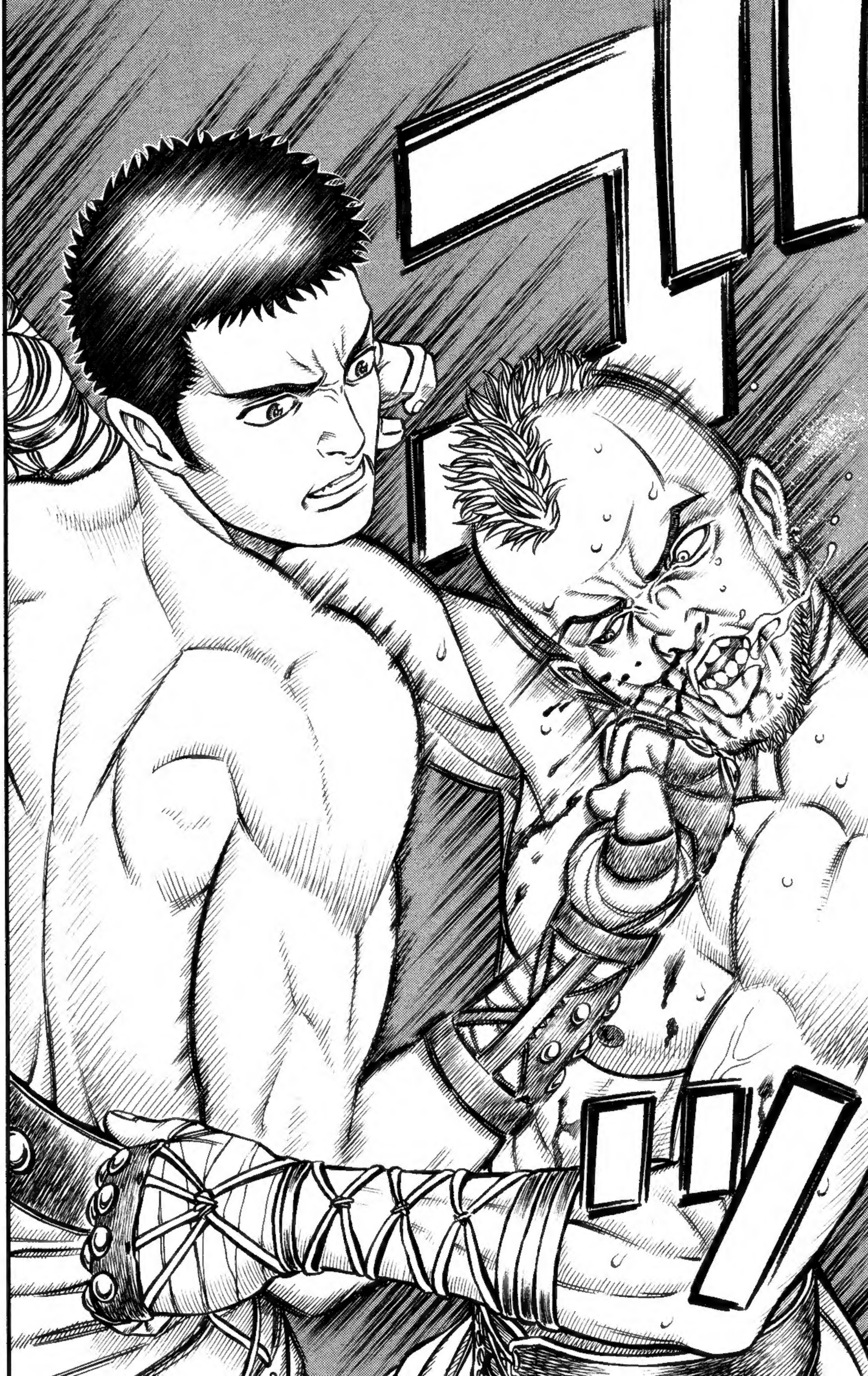
CHAPTER LII: AN AGONISING COLLAPSE





THE HELL WAS THAT?! WHY'D YOU GIMME THAT SHITTY, WEAK FUCKER FOR?!

E... EVEN IF YOU DO COMPLAIN THEN...

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HE REALLY WAS DONE IN A FLASH.

WE'VE ONLY HAD THE ONE FIGHT...

OOH! OFF SOMEWHERE?

THE BET WAS OFF YOU FOOL!

HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK I'LL FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK?

YOU MUSTA LOST A LOT ALREADY, NO?

HOW'S BUSINESS BEEN?

I WAS NEVER GONNA MAKE ANY MONEY FROM IT.

I THREW THAT MATCH.

IT PISSES ME OFF, YET NONE OF MY LOT CAN MATCH RADDOCK.

YOU KNOW I AM.

SHUT IT.

SO YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD COS YOU FEEL HARD DONE BY.

WASSAT, YOU'RE GIVING UP?

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W... WELL DONE.

HARDLY.

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WHAT A LOSER!

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EVERY TIME, EVERY TIME!

SHIT, I'M PISSED!

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THE WORLD FROM EVEN HIGHER UP!

HE'S A BLINDINGLY QUICK NEW STAR, CESTVS!

WHEN ONE OBTAINS A TENACIOUS BLADE...

THUMP.

I IMAGINE I'LL BE FACING A STRONG FOE...

THUMP.

THUMP.

JUST HOW DOES THE SCENERY ONE SEES CHANGE?

FROM DRISCO'S BOXING TROUPE...

AM ABLE, I'D LIKE TO SEE...

THUMP.

IF I...

THUMP.

AND FROM JIMENEZ'S BOXING LODGE.

HE'S THE SMALL FIGHTER WITH A GIGANTIC FIST, KALDAN!

!

CESTVS...

SO I'M FIGHTING YOU!

KALDAN...

WAS A SLAVE BOXER...?!

FOR IT TO BE HIM...!

OF ALL THE THINGS...

IT'S NO BOTHER TO ME.

OOH. CONFIDENT EH OLD MAN.

HOW ABOUT WE WAGER AN EXTRA 100 ON THIS MATCH?

WELL, DRISCO?

HE'S NORMALLY A PLAIN, SUBDUED MAN BUT, COME A FIGHT, HE GETS FULLY INVOLVED!

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THE DRUNK FOOL THINKS KALDAN'S JUST SOME SHORT FIGHTER!

RIGHT, KALDAN.

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN LOSE...

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COME ON!

THIS IS DO OR DIE.

YOU SHOULD STOP IT WITH THE THREATS...

WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE GET DESPERATE.

WITH A WIN, I'LL HAVE EARNED MY FREEDOM.

THUMP.

THIS IS IT!

THUMP.

THUMP.

THUMP.

I WON'T LET ANYONE GET IN THE WAY!

THUMP.

I CAN RETURN HOME.

THUMP.

DON'T FLINCH.

I CAN'T HESITATE. THERE'S NO WAY...

THUMP.

THUMP.

TO THINK...

HE'D BE SUCH A TERRIFYING MAN...

BEGIN!

I CAN LOSE HERE!

BUT THAT SLENDER FRAME WON'T STAND UP TO MY FISTS...

HE LOOKS MORE SKILLED THAN I'D THOUGHT...

I SHOULD BRING THIS TO AN END QUICKLY.

IF IT'S SPEED THOUGH, I'M FAR SUPERIOR.

THERE'S NO LARGE DIFFERENCE IN BODY SIZE.

I CAN DO THIS!

THINK, WILL HE BE THE SORT OF FOE YOU CAN IMPEDE WITH SPEED ALONE...?

YOU'VE A STRONG FOE THERE, CESTVS...

HE'S GOT A FIRM DEFENCE.

YOUR SPEED WON'T MATTER IF...

I STOP YOU!

IF IT'S SIMPLY ABOUT BRUTE STRENGTH, I'M A CUT ABOVE!

!

OOF

...

WERE I TO TAKE A BLOW TO THE HEAD...!

HIS FISTS ARE HEAVY.

I'LL BE IN TROUBLE!

IF I FALL BEHIND...

ZAHHH

MASTER! IS THIS REALLY APPRO...

HE'D MAKE A GREAT MODEL FOR YOU TO COPY!

GETTY!

PAY ATTEN-TION!

HE HAS A SOLID DEFENCE, AND NIMBLE LEGS TO CHASE WITH.

THAT OLD GEEZER'S STRONG!

HE MIGHT BECOME THROWN OFF, AND QUITE NATURALLY TOO. AFTER ALL HIS ENEMY'S FISTS WILL BE COMING FROM A MUCH LOWER ANGLE THAN HE'S USED TO.

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THAT CESTVS FIGHTS SOMEONE OF A SIMILARILY SMALL BUILD.

THINGS COULD BECOME SERIOUS IF HE TAKES IT TOO EASY.

YOU'VE COMPLETELY OPPOSING STANCES.

THIS IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A TRICKY MOMENT...

WHILE YOU MIGHT BOTH BE RIGHT HANDED...

UNTIL MY ARM MUSCLES GET USED TO THIS...

I'LL STICK TO SIMPLE JABS.

I'LL FINISH HIS ANNOYING LEFT ARM FIRST.

THE MOMENT HE PULLS IT BACK, I'LL STEP IN AND SECURE VICTORY.

HIS STRATEGY HAS BEEN TO POUND AWAY WITH HIS STRONGER, DOMINANT RIGHT ARM.

HE'S PUT THE BRITTLE CESTVS ON THE DEFENSIVE. HE'S A TRULY DANGEROUS MAN.

IT'S IN THIS SORT OF MATCH WHICH YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR SPECIAL TRAINING TO USE!

WATCH OUT CESTVS!

THERE!

SHUTTER.

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GOT YOU!

?!

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H…
HUH?!

KAH...

HAH.

JUST STAY LIKE THAT, AND SLEEP.

IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

SORRY CESTVS.